

The Times-Dispatch

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1906.

The constant pursuit of pleasure has
in it something insolvent and im-
proper for our being. —STEELE.

The Rate Making Power.

The Churchman bill to regulate pas-
senger rates in this State provides:

"That from and after this act shall take effect, the power is conferred in the State Corporation Commission, and it is required to fix and prescribe a schedule of rates for the transportation of passengers by all transportation companies heretofore mentioned and until the same shall be prescribed by the State Corporation Commission, all transportation companies or corporations operated by steam, shall at all times keep on file and ready for examination, mileage books of 25 miles or over, station, mileage books of 25 miles or over, and until the same shall be prescribed by the State Corporation Commission, all transportation companies or corporations operated by steam, to charge or collect a greater sum than two cents per mile on such mileage books and valid for the use of any person, or if issued to a firm or corporation to be good and valid for the use of any officer of said firm or corporation or salaried employee of same over the lines of said transportation company or corporation in this State."

It is claimed by the patron of this bill that it is merely advisory. But clearly it purports to be more. It confers upon the corporation commission the power to fix passenger rates and requires the commission to do so. Moreover, it provides that until the commission shall put into execution the provisions of the act, all railroad companies in Virginia shall sell 50 mile tickets at two cents a mile. There is no occasion for a legislative enactment conferring upon the corporation commission the power to fix rates, for that power is conferred by the constitution of the State, and it seems clear to us that it is an exclusive power. Section 124, sub-section b, provides that the corporation commission "shall have the power and be charged with the duty of supervising, regulating and controlling all transportation and transmission companies doing business in this State in all matters relating to the performance of their public duties and their charges therefor." * * * and to that end the commission shall prescribe and enforce against such companies such rates, charges and classifications of traffic, etc., as may be reasonable and just."

If it were not explicit enough it is further provided in the same section, "The authority of the commission to prescribe rates, charges and classifications of traffic for transportation and transmission companies shall be PARAMOUNT." (Caps ours.)

To make assurance doubly sure, it is again enacted by the constitution that "all rates, charges, rules and regulations adopted or enacted upon by any such company inconsistent with those prescribed by the commission shall be unlawful and void."

It is therefore as clear as language can make it, that the question of rates for transportation and transmission companies is wholly and exclusively in the hands of the corporation commission. The exact language of the constitution, after giving the sections we have quoted above, is: "But the authority to prescribe ANY OTHER rules, regulation or requirements for corporations or other persons shall be subject to the superior authority of the General Assembly to legislate thereon by general laws." So the matter of determining rates and classifications is by the constitution itself taken away from the Legislature.

The inevitable question then arises: Does the legislature know this? And if not, why not? If this basic constitutional provision was known, the Churchman bill requiring the railroad to give a two-cent rate was a futile proceeding.

In view of the plain provisions of the constitution, the question may fairly be asked, what did the supporters of Mr. Churchman's resolution hope to gain by the proposed legislation?

A British Humorist on American Humor.

Mr. Jerome K. Jerome, who is now in this country on a lecturing tour, has been studying the American sense of humor, and is disappointed in it. He finds that we have been so afflicted with good humor that our formerly refined taste has become unduly blunted. Much joking has made us dull. Our appreciative powers have sunk, in short, from the subtlety of a Mark Twain to the glaring crudity of the Sunday supplement.

No subject in the world is so delicate and difficult of argument as the matter of the possession of a sense of humor. Many people, no doubt, altogether lack it, but probably nobody has ever been conscious that he lacked it. You could more easily persuade a man to go off and hang himself than convince him that he is deficient in this respect. It is all a question of what a good joke really is, and every man has the heavens-right to be a law unto himself. Standards vary so hopelessly that the pleasant grip which convulses John leaves James, for example, as stolidly grave as his grandeur out in alabaster. To laugh together is to be drawn together, and a kindred taste

in jokes the social philosophers rightly regard as one of the most reliable stepping-stones to a happy married life.

So Mr. Jerome is on somewhat treacherous ground when he seeks to arraign a nation's humor. If he may set up such an argument, however, there appears no reason why it may not be combated; and we push from us his suggestion that American laughter thrives nowadays only on far coarser fare than it once demanded. Mr. Jerome is himself a humorist of repute, cherished highly for his past pleasant work among our risibles; but when he speaks of "the subtle touch that England likes still and America liked once," we cheerfully reply: "Fiddlesticks, gammon and fudge!"

Mark Twain has not become a duty in this country yet. Probably more people read him, chuckle over him, and quote him than Mr. Jerome has any idea of. If he is subtle, it is not only in his English editions that that subtlety meets with a genial and ready response. As for the comic supplement, that plays its part indeed, but possibly it is not such an unworthy part, after all. America is not a nation of subtle men and women, any more than England is; any more than either country is a nation of aristocrats or artists or college professors. The Sunday comic may, as he says, represent the effort to reduce humor to the terms of the meanest intelligence, but is there anything particularly appalling about that? A man must crawl before he can walk; and if Mr. Jerome sees a great many people over here engaged in extracting mirth from the colored supplement, he may consider that this merely means that that number of people have reached, in their mental expansion, the colored supplement stage.

As for a general decline in the quality of American humor, we find ourselves unable to see it. Men like George Ade and Findley P. Dunne will not suffer, we opine, when compared with the several represented, say, by Petroleum V. Nasby. As for the superior subtlety of the English brand of jokes, the evidence of Mr. Powness, of Great Britain, whose well-meant jests at the moment of his arrival in this country resulted in his arrest pending an examination as to his sanity, would be decidedly worth securing.

Women as Wage Earners.

The increasing part which women are playing in the industrial life of the country is a matter of distinct social and economic importance. Now and then, it has been taken as the occasion for alarm. Some months ago a Chicago superintendent of education declared that women workers were gradually absorbing most of the best jobs and that the men were slowly, but surely being pushed into the backgrounds of business. This view was unduly pessimistic, but it expressed concretely one of the most interesting developments in modern economies. Women as wage-earners have reached a point where they must be taken seriously, and the determination of Congress to gather facts about them shows that they are to have the dignity of specific consideration in future legislation.

A writer in the New York Evening Post quotes from the Journal of Political Economy some significant figures dealing with women engaged in gainful occupations. Over 5,400,000 women were working for money in 1900, and this number was increasing for faster proportionately than the number of wage-earning men. Out of 263 scheduled occupations, women were engaged in 255. The eight occupations in which no women appeared were the United States army and navy, the fire departments and "helpers to roofers, slaters, steam boiler-makers and brass-workers." From the first-class of these women are debarred by regulation, from the second by the qualification of physical strength. Yet women blacksmiths and stevedores, for example, are not wanting. Almost literally, women are doing all the work that men are doing, and in increasing numbers in all directions. Only four leading businesses show a decrease in the number of women engaged in them, and these, curiously enough, are all occupations which they once had almost wholly to themselves. Women dressmakers, for example, increased only 17.8 per cent. between 1890 and 1900; men dressmakers increased 45 per cent.; women milliners increased 45 per cent.; men milliners 240 per cent. But these facts make but small vent to the stream of figures, all pointing in the other direction.

The working of women is, of course, no new thing. Women, as the Post points out, have always worked. The change in recent years is only in the nature of their work. What effect this change has had on society in general, and on womanhood in particular is the real focus of interest in the situation, and this any Congressional inquiry would undoubtedly seek to determine.

England's Election Laws.

The English law to prevent bribery and corruption in elections is relayed in the February number of the North American Review by Mr. Arthur Pottow, an English writer. We have not seen the article in full, but a synopsis of it is printed in the Baltimore Sun, from which we get the following outline of the English election law of 1852.

The law punishes with a fine of \$1,000 or imprisonment for one year the giver or receiver of a bribe. The impersonator or the repeater is liable to two years' imprisonment at hard labor. It makes it an illegal practice, punishable by \$500 fine, to pay for the use of any house or premises for exhibiting posters; to pay for any bands of music, torches, banners or for the conveyance of voters to the polls. It disfranchises every person employed for money by the candidate. It permits the expenditure of a sum not exceeding \$1,750, where voters number 2,000, and \$250 for each 1,000 voters above that number. Only the agent of the candidate can spend this money. Within thirty-five days after the election he must file a statement showing the sources from which he received the money and how it has been expended. Both the candidate and his agent are compelled to declare, on oath, that to the best of their knowledge no club, society or association

spent money on behalf of the candidate. Finally the Director of Public Prosecutions must prosecute violations of the corrupt practices act if there be a petition against the offending member, or he must prosecute in the absence of a petition if any information is given to him that corrupt practices prevailed.

It is claimed that under this act political debauchery in England, which at one time was worse than ever it was in the United States, has passed away. Our Virginia statute is very similar to the English law as above outlined, and it has had a wholesome effect in purifying elections in this State.

The Library as a Money Saver.

One hundred and twenty-five years ago Thomas Jefferson, the accomplished statesman and writer, realizing the great need for libraries in the Old Dominion, encouraged the passing of certain acts, which allow towns to have public circulating libraries. But Thomas Jefferson in his most sanguine moments never imagined the possibilities which the modern circulating library holds out to the public. With its "Open sesame" to knowledge the analytical catalogue; with its corps of trained men and women, whose duty and pleasure it is to add the searches, guide the doubtful and teach those who are eager to learn; and with its general atmosphere of culture and refinement, which in itself is obliged to be uplifting to all those who come within the radius of its influence, it is a tremendous force for better citizenship.

Richmond people spent over \$3,000 on subscription libraries last year and only 600 people out of the 50,000 were benefited.

Richmond has a school population of about 25,000; it enrolls about 12,000, and 10,000 is the number daily attending schools in this city. About 1,500 are studying the higher branches.

And yet the library privileges are such in Richmond that only about 50 out of the 12,000 enrolled, are able to take advantage of a public collection of books.

The demand upon the State library has become so great that the readers are unable to get seats.

The State library does not pretend to supply the need of a city public library. As its name implies, it is primarily a reference library for the entire State, not a circulating library, and cannot with its large field of work concentrate its energies for the benefit of the city of Richmond.

Under the present system, the teacher bears the entire brunt of the work of education. She studies her lesson at home, generally confining herself to the text book, for lack of others or of time, and the next day gives her class a digest or epitome of what she has read.

The pupil gets none of that revivifying interest inspired by comparative reading. Experience in other cities demonstrates that the pupil who uses the library advances at the rate of 30 per cent. over what he does without the library.

This calculated in dollars and cents is well worth the consideration of the municipal economist, to say nothing of the \$5,000 expended annually on subscription libraries.

Dr. St. Clair McKelway, editor of the Brooklyn Eagle, will speak to the faculty and students of the University of Virginia on Washington's birthday anniversary. Dr. McKelway is a scholar, a writer, and an orator. He has taken a keen interest in education, as well as in politics, and has been a conspicuous figure at educational conferences which have been held of late years in the South. But whether as editor or public speaker, he has always advocated pure politics and the best form of popular education, and has been identified with all national movements whose object was to lift up the people to a higher plane of moral and mental excellence. The University is fortunate in having him as its Washingtonian orator.

The young New Yorker who is charged with having burned up his brother to get the life insurance money made the mistake of not taking out a fire insurance policy instead.

The question of proper rations for Panama is, of course, highly important; but it does not necessarily follow that the canal can really be dug with toothpicks.

The elephant being held an especially sacred animal in China, the Imperial commissioners appropriately departed with a large number of trunks.

Record-breaking trains are great things in their way, but it is only human nature to wonder why New Yorkers should want to be in such a hurry to get to Chicago.

The reason for the mobilization of American troops in the Philippines will not strike even China as an out-and-out Chinese puzzle.

If France delays her proposed castigation of Mr. Castro indefinitely, a delicate situation may be solved by the latter's death from old age.

Regarding that threatened Chinese uprising in the spring, they seem to be rehearsing it now in New York.

Chicago has three saloons for every policeman. Naturally this doesn't leave the police much time for anything else.

Our consular service would be vastly benefited by a few weeks in the national reformatory.

Policemen, it would appear, belong in the class that have stoutness thrust upon them.

Great Britain, of course, has the right to retaliate by placing a high tariff on American jokes.

As to last Saturday, no doubt a few thousand other couples "also" married.

By this time, no doubt, she has learned to sign it Longworth without thinking.

But there is no real etymological connection between Slav and slave, is there?

Even the most liberal insurance policies do not guarantee long life, however.

The moon, these days, is of honey, not green cheese.

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Rhymes for To-Day.

Sane, But British.

(The jokes of a recently arrived British humorist led to his detention, pending an examination as to his sanity.)

Oh, I say, you mustn't take the thing like that;

Eh? I say, you mustn't think of an arrest

What's the bloomin', bloody blazes are you at?

Don't you see I only did it for a jest?

Can't you see the ripping humor of the thing?

Why, in England everybody'd throw a fit!

Oh, it's positively foolish, you should think me merely foolish.

When I simply have a very pretty wit.

Eh? You fawney I am actin' doocid queer?

You fear my mind has given way and broke?

Come, I say, that's jolly nonsense—Cawn't you hear?

It was just a little joke—a Joke—a JOKE!

Oh, it's bally rot to think I am insane—I am just an English Joker, as I said; And it makes a wee feel dillish to insist, because he's British,

He is consequently foolish in the head.

—H. S. H.

Merely Joking.

Hard to Tell.—After the teacher had carefully explained the familiar story, she asked Tommy whether he expected to be among the sheep of the goats. "How's a feller to tell?" answered Tommy. "When his maw calls him a lamb and his paw says he's a pesky kid?"—Philadelphia Ledger.

A Business Acquaintance.—"Have you met him socially?" "Dear me, no. Only in a business way. I married his daughter."—Cleveland Leader.

Thrown Together a Lot.—"You two are thrown together a great deal, aren't you?" "You bet. We ride home on the same car at 6 o'clock."—Cleveland Leader.

Out, Anyway.—Cadley: "No, he isn't in our social set any more." Wiseman: "So I understand." Cadley: "Yes, he dropped out some time ago." Wiseman: "Why, he gave me to understand he climbed out."—Philadelphia Press.

Nearly Identical.—Booklover: "I wish to get Stevenson's story 'The Suicide Club.'" Bookdealer: "We're just out of that, but here's the year-book of 'The Automobile Racing Association.'"—Puck.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

February 21st.

1746—Le Bourbon and La Charite, French ships, captured by Commodore Knowles in a heavy gale. The military chest belonging to the French vessels contained \$5,000.

1793—Field Marshal Clairfait, the Austrian general, resigned, and was succeeded by the Archduke Charles, for whom a new rank was created, that of field marshal-general, being the highest military rank in the empire.

1801—Commodore Preble's United States squadron operating against Tripoli increased to eleven ships.

1829—The Virginia Legislature passed a resolution condemning the first high tariff bill as unconstitutional.

1854—The czar of Russia issued a proclamation calling the empire to arms against the Turks.

1856—The students of South Carolina College, armed with rifles, surrendered to the Governor of the State and a posse of armed citizens.

1865—Charleston, S. C., in the possession of the Federal troops.

1865—Wisconsin ratified the constitutional amendment.

1875—The survey of the canal route across the Isthmus of Panama being made.

1878—Silver re-monetized.

1893—A financial panic occurred in Cuba. The Bank of Catalina, failing, for \$2,000,000, while sugar was quoted at the lowest price on record and gold at 231.

1895—The Washington monument, at Washington, D. C., dedicated.

Alterative Progress.

Rise and progress of William J. Bryan: 1894—Democratic candidate for President. 1900—Ditto. 1906—Ditto.—From the Chicago Tribune.

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QUERIES AND

ANSWERS

Will you please answer in the query columns the following: Who are the King and Emperor of Italy, Spain and China? E. C. King of Italy, Victor Emmanuel III; Emperor of Japan, Mutsuhito; Emperor of China, Kuang Hsi.

The Truth.

Please publish in your next Sunday's query column whether turtles are fish or meaty and oblige, A SCHOOL-GIRL. It is flesh.

Dates.

Please tell me in Sunday's paper what days of the week the following dates came on: July 15th and October 15th, 1887? A READER. July 15th, 1887, fell on Saturday; October 15th, 1887, fell on Tuesday.

Liberty Bell.

Please answer in your next Sunday's query column how Liberty Bell was cracked and where it stands now, and oblige, E. L. C. It was accidentally cracked when being rung in honor of the visit of Henry Clay to Philadelphia.

Jamestown.

Will you please in your next Sunday's issue give me some points on Jamestown; how far is it from Richmond; what is the distance to the old fort? A READER AND SUBSCRIBER. Jamestown is a very small settlement on Jamestown Island, James river. By the shortest distance is sixty-eight miles and the fare is \$1.50.

Mining Laws.

Please inform me what the mining laws of Virginia are and where I can obtain a copy; also if there is a reward for the discovery of any precious metal ore? A READER. The mining laws are not published in pamphlet form. See Pollard's Code, paragraphs 2579, 2571, 2572, 2573bb, 2574, 2185 and 2187. Ch. 57 of tax bill, page 222. There is no State reward for discoveries.

Warts and Corns.

1. What will cure a seed wart permanently? 2. Also a sure cure for a corn on one's foot? 3. What will make hair grow and remove dandruff? N. M. M. 1. Permanent removal of seed wart, excision by a competent doctor. 2. Shoes that fit as they ought are the best cure for corns. 3. Regular shampooing of scalp and clipping off split ends of hairs.

The Law of Inheritance.

According to the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, real estate property that was left to two daughters by will their life time and then to their legal heirs, the two daughters divided the property in their lifetime without the consent of the heirs. Can the property be recovered by the heirs?

CONSTANT READER. If the two daughters are dead, their heirs can recover the property; that is, if you have made no mistake in the legal import of the will. It is very easy for a person who is not a lawyer to make a mistake as to the legal effect of wills, deeds, etc.

Postal Regulations.

Is it lawful for a rural free delivery carrier to carry a revolver or other weapon? and, second, has a mail carrier the right of way over public roads while on his route? You will greatly oblige me by answering the above two questions from.

Most respectfully yours, SUBSCRIBER. First. A rural carrier has no authority to carry a revolver, or other weapon, unless by permit of his county authorities, which is usually granted if satisfactory reasons are given for allowing him to do so.

Second. I do not understand what you mean by "right of way over public roads," but he has a right to travel public roads, and no one has a right to willfully delay him in making his route.

The Law As to Automobiles.

Has the Legislature of Virginia a legal right to enact a law to prohibit travel in automobiles on the public roads of Northampton county, Va., under a heavy penalty?

Would such a law be constitutional? X. X. X. Section 44 of the Constitution requires that the General Assembly shall enact general laws in all cases which in its judgment may be provided for by general laws.

The whole policy of the Constitution is against special legislation in any case where a remedy can be afforded by a general law, and the experience of the State has shown that such legislation is often not only unwise, but positively vicious.

There can be no doubt that the Legislature can pass a law for the reasonable regulation of travel by automobiles on the public roads of the State, but it should be a general law.

There is a grave doubt whether the Legislature would have the power to prohibit entirely travel by automobiles or by any convenient other mode of conveyance, either in the whole State, or in any sub-division thereof.

The Slave Trade.

1. Was it not New Bedford, in Massachusetts, that succeeded the Dutch (1619) in selling African slaves to the Virginia planters?

2. What is the east side of the capitol at Washington, D. C., called the FRONT? This is the side which is adorned by Greenough's colossal statue of Washington. If this is so, and this is the point, the back side of the capitol building becomes the front to the White House and Pennsylvania Avenue.

3. Why are our new possessions spelled thus, Philippines while the inhabitants are called Philipinos? The natives speak with a "P" and the other with an "F".

1. Previous to 1630 the Dutch were either directly, or indirectly, chiefly instrumental in introducing the negro into Virginia. Thereafter the Royal African Company, an English chartered organization, was authorized to bring negroes into the Colonies, but in 1811 Cuthbert declared that as yet they had brought none.

In 1652 a vessel from New Hampshire entered into an agreement to import a large number.

The names of New England ships are frequently mentioned as importing them, but no special mention of New Bedford occurs. For a full history of the early days of slavery, see Bruce's Economic History of Virginia—in the seventeenth century.

2. You have answered your own question. The east front of the Washington capitol is the front, and its back is turned to Pennsylvania Avenue.

3. Perhaps when it was built the belief was not universal in the axiom, "Westward the star of empire takes its way." In a Middle England (commonly called Old England), "ph" is equivalent to "f". In Anglo-Saxon "f" is much more common than "ph." Undoubtedly the "P" in Philipino is an equivalent of the "F" in Philippines.

Work wears body and brain, but nature quickly rebuilds the tissues. Care consumes the vital energies, kills the capacity for work, is the direct cause of misfortune.

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Twelfth and Main Streets, Richmond, Va.

Capital, - - - \$300,000.00

Surplus and Profits, - - - \$900,000.00

Voice of the People

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—The interest excited by the suggestion of Mr. Charles Marshall Graves for a Poe monument, is not surprising, considering the recognition which Poe has secured in the present judgment of the people of a new and to create an office for one man at a fat salary for the taxpayers to pay?

Furthermore, the people would like to know whether this new district is being formed for the convenience of the people who reside in it and in the interest of public order, or simply to suit the convenience of a few and to create an office for one man at a fat salary for the taxpayers to pay?

There is any reason, if there is any necessity, for such a change, will somebody please tell us? We are not making a fight on any man, but we are fighting for the people of this State, and we are not unreasonable. We want our rights. We want an explanation. In our present condition of affairs, we want most of all is "more light."

J. A. DERHING, A. R. MORRIS, WM. H. HILL, Committee.

Fitzhugh Lee's Claim on Virginia.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—What has become of the bill presented to the Legislature, asking for an appropriation of \$20,000 for the erection of a monument to General Fitzhugh Lee? Is it possible for any son of Virginia to neglect the memory of such a hero, who provides for a memorial to honor the governor of this grand old Commonwealth—a man known, beloved and admired throughout the United States?

A man, when Virginia needed men, who gallantly led her troops to victory, and when the united country sounded the tocsin of battle, it was again Fitzhugh Lee who assumed command. First consul-general of Cuba and president of the Jamestown Exposition, was he not a Virginia worthy of the name? Never was there a more devoted and patriotic son of Virginia whose honor was concerned. Even in death, he breathed his last away from home and family, while serving his country.

He died in the arms of his mother, and there, in the town of Alexandria, he was laid to rest. I ask again, why does not the Finance Committee make a recommendation for the erection of a monument to General Fitzhugh Lee? The Seventh Army Corps, U. S. A., has set the example by pledging \$2,500. Surely it can not go out to the world that a Virginia legislator refused to take action.

Public Cleanliness.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—As an humble citizen of Virginia, I feel very great exultation in the improvement and enlargement of the capitol building. I would congratulate the General Assembly on having accommodations so suitable and so beautiful for the Legislature. I would like to see the capitol building, which is in my opinion, the most beautiful and useful building in the State. I feel like thanking the capitol commission for their successful, patriotic and unselfish work. I feel like thanking the capitol commission for their successful, patriotic and unselfish work.

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